



TeleCommunities Canada
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Ottawa's "Future of the Internet" Town Hall

ACCESS, OPENNESS AND INCLUSION IN MEDIA

are essential to a robust democracy and a healthy economy. The Internet is a basic component of our society and essential to every aspect of our lives. Strengthening the infrastructure of Canada's Internet is therefore crucial to the prosperity of citizens socially, economically, and politically, and the country as the whole.

Everyone stands to benefit from a better Internet and the public should be leading the conversation about its future. Ottawa's open Internet Town Hall will take place at the **Ottawa Public Library, June 10, 7-9 pm**. Join in this opportunity to shape the agenda for Canada's broadband future. The Canadian people know better than anyone what changes are needed to improve the Internet in this country.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Net Neutrality: A handful of companies are threatening to change the way Canada's Internet works. They want to replace the today's open network with a discriminatory or "gatekeeper network" -- where they decide which content and services get the fastest access to our homes. These companies have been caught throttling or slowing Internet traffic to businesses and consumers; blocking access to web sites that criticized them; and crippling consumer devices and applications. This threatens Canada's free speech, online innovation, and economic competitiveness.

Accessibility: The Canadian government has failed to address the broadband infrastructure problem and as such we are at risk of turning Canada into the backwater of online innovation. But a citizen-defined national strategy could be the path to a "New Deal" for broadband - a path to a better Internet for everyone, for free speech and open innovation.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the town hall is to give local citizens the chance to shape Canada's broadband future. As Canada falls behind other OECD countries on Internet speed, cost, and openness we will host a lively discussion guided by panelists representing web innovators, social change leaders, and public policy gurus. We will gather citizen testimony that SaveOurNet.ca's Steve Anderson will use to guide his presentation to the CRTC at the July 6 "Traffic Management" hearing. We will also record the town hall meetings and present video testimonials to the CRTC and share them online. Information gathered at the town hall meeting will also help us develop the "Open Internet Declaration" which we will put before MPs and policy makers.

FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS:

We want to engage the public in discussion on what the future of the Internet should look like by addressing the following questions:

- How can we ensure Internet services for everyone in Canada?
- How do we expand consumer choice and lower costs for Internet services?
- How can the Internet be a catalyst for economic growth, jobs, and prosperity?
- How do we preserve the Internet's level playing field so everyone can access the content, applications, and services of their choice?
- What roles should the federal government, local governments, private industry, and everyday citizens play to build a better Internet?
- What can and should citizens do right now?

SaveOurNet.ca and **Internetforeveryone.ca** have assembled an extensive coalition of citizens, businesses, and public interest groups fighting to protect access, inclusion, openness and innovation for ALL Canadians. We are calling on lawmakers and regulators to resist the erosion of our communications rights.